

SEATTLE PUBLIC UTILITIES
2007 WATER SYSTEM PLAN

V. OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

APPENDIX A
OPERATOR CERTIFICATION

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Operator Certification

April 2006

Introduction

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) is committed to meeting the requirements of the Water Works Operator Certification Program administered by the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) in conjunction with the Water and Wastewater Operator Certification Board of Examiners under the authority of Chapter 70.119 RCW and the comprehensive program regulations contained in Chapter 246-292 WAC. Under this program, water systems must employ certified operators to carry out various water system functions as part of treatment and distribution systems.

Certification Requirements

SPU is classified as a "Group A" public water system. The Group A classification requires that SPU have certified operators in charge of all active, daily, and technical operations of the water system. In meeting this requirement, SPU maintains certified personnel throughout the utility for a variety of water system operations. This certification includes water treatment plant operators at the Tolt and Cedar Water Treatment Facilities, which are operated and maintained by private entities. Classifications include Water Distribution Manager (WDM) Levels 1 through 4, Water Treatment Plant Operator (WTPO) Levels 3 and 4, Cross Connection Control Specialists (CCS) and Backflow Assembly Tester (BAT) depending on the requirements of specific positions. Table 1 shows the current listing of mandatory water works operator positions for SPU as they relate to the organizational structure of the utility. This list is updated on an annual basis for utility staff and submitted to DOH for their review.

Table 1 Waterworks Personnel Certifications			
Branch	Division	Position	Required Certification
Utility Systems Management	Drinking Water	Drinking Water Director	WDM 4
		Water System Operations Manager	WDM 3
		Water System Supervisor	WDM 3
		Senior Water System Operator	WDM 1
		Water System Operator	WDM 1
	Treatment Plant	Water Treatment Plant Facility Manager	WTPO 4
		Water Treatment Plant Operator	WTPO 3
Customer Service	Utility Service Teams	Chief Water Quality Inspector	WDM 3, CCS & BAT
		Senior Water Quality Inspector	WDM 2, CCS & BAT
		Water Quality Inspector	WDM 1
Field Operations	Water Operations	Water Operations Director	WDM 4
		Water Maintenance Supervisor	WDM 3
		Water Transmission Supervisor	WDM 3
		Water Pipe District Supervisor - North End Distribution	WDM 3
		Water Pipe District Supervisor - South End Distribution	WDM 3
		Water Treatment Crew Chief	WDM 2
		Water Treatment Equipment Technician	WDM 2
		Senior Water Treatment Operator	WDM 2
		Water Treatment Operator	WDM 1

Certified operators are either on-site or on call for all critical water system operations. SPU also ensures that certified operators are in charge of all segments of the water system as appropriate. Certified operators staff the Control Center, the two primary water treatment plants, and the Landsburg Diversion 24 hours per day. Also, Water Pipe District Supervisors for the Water Operations Division of the Field Operations Branch maintain Water Distribution Manager Level 3 certification for the “North End,” “South End,” and “All City” segments of distribution responsibility.

Training

All certified personnel for SPU renew their certificates on an annual basis and enhance their professional growth in the field by accumulating at least three college-related credits or continuing education units (CEUs) every three years. Personnel meet the CEU requirements through a combination of external and internal training opportunities. External opportunities include State-sponsored classes through the Washington Environmental Training Resource Center (WETRC). Examples of classes offered through this program include “Chlorination System Operation and Maintenance” and “Basic Electrical.” Internally, SPU takes advantage of a wealth of expertise from a variety of professional staff to offer CEU approved classes.

Examples of classes offered through this internal training include:

- National Incident Management System (NIMS)
- Cross Connection Control
- Operations Math
- Corrosion Protection
- Watermain Installation and Print Reading
- Successful Watermain Shutdowns